

In re Appln. No. 09/856,298

**REMARKS**

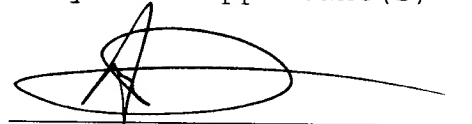
The amendments to the claims are being made to eliminate multiple dependencies and to reduce the additional claim fees.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached version is captioned "version with markings to show changes made".

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 55-57, 59, 64, and 66-71 have been amended as follows below:

55(Amended). A vector comprising the nucleotide sequence according to ~~any one of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44-54~~ claim 2.

56(Amended). Transformed cells having the nucleotide sequence according to ~~any one of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44-54~~ claim 2 in an expressible state.

57(Amended). A process for producing a protein which comprises culturing cells transformed with the nucleotide sequence according to ~~any one of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 45-53~~ claim 2, and collecting hBSSP4 produced.

59(Amended). The process according to claim 57 ~~or 58~~, wherein the cells are *E. coli* cells, animal cells or insect cells.

64(Amended). An antibody against the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41 and 43~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof.

66(Amended). A process for producing a monoclonal antibody against the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1,~~

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~~3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41 and 43~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof which comprises administering the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41 and 43~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof to a warm-blooded animal other than a human being, selecting the animal whose antibody titer is recognized, collecting its spleen or lymph node, fusing the antibody producing cells contained therein with myeloma cells to prepare a monoclonal antibody producing hybridoma.

67(Amended). A method for determining the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41 and 43~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof in a specimen which is based on immunological binding of an antibody against the protein or a fragment thereof to the protein or a fragment thereof.

68(Amended). A method for determining hBSSP4 or a fragment thereof in a specimen which comprises reacting a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody against the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof and a labeled antibody with hBSSP4 or a fragment thereof in the specimen to detect a sandwich complex produced.

69(Amended). A method for determining hBSSP4 or a fragment thereof in a specimen which comprises reacting a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody against the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13,~~

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~~15, 17, 19, 21, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof with labeled hBBSP4 and hBSSP4 or a fragment thereof in the specimen competitively to detect an amount of hBSSP4 or a fragment thereof in the specimen based on an amount of the labeled hBBSP4 reacted with the antibody.

70(Amended). The method according to ~~any one of claims 67-69~~ claim 67, wherein the specimen is a body fluid.

71(Amended). A diagnostic marker for diseases in tissues comprising the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41 and 43~~ claim 1.